

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for collection and lateral flow chromatography of an oral fluid, ~~said the~~ apparatus comprising:

a capillary matrix having exposed a surface for receiving oral fluid; ~~and~~

a lateral flow chromatography strip where ~~said the~~ lateral flow chromatography strip is in communication with ~~said the~~ capillary matrix ~~such that when said the capillary matrix receives oral fluid, said capillary matrix wicks up said oral fluid and delivers said oral fluid to a receiving area of said lateral flow chromatography strip;~~ and

a blocking strip coupled between the capillary matrix and the lateral flow chromatographic strip, wherein the blocking strip contains at least one blocking agent.
- 2-52. (Cancelled)
53. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the blocking strip further comprises a detergent, or a buffer, or mixtures thereof.
54. (New) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein at least one blocking agent is selected from bovine serum albumin, deoxycholate, and n-lauroyl sarcosine.
55. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a conjugate strip coupled between the capillary matrix and the lateral flow chromatography strip, wherein the conjugate strip contains lateral flow chromatography reagents.

56. (New) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the lateral flow chromatography strip provides an assay to detect or quantify the presence of at least one analyte within the oral fluid.
57. (New) The apparatus of claim 56, wherein at least the analyte is selected from the group consisting of antibodies to HIV, antibodies to HTLV, antibodies to *Helicobacter pylori*, antibodies to hepatitis, antibodies to measles, antibodies to mumps, antibodies to rubella, cotinine, cocaine, benzoylecgonine, benzodiazepine, tetrahydrocannabinol, nicotine, ethanol theophylline, phenytoin, acetaminophen, lithium, diazepam, nortryptiline, secobarbital, phenobarbital, theophylline, testosterone, estradiol, 17-hydroxyprogesterone, progesterone, thyroxine, thyroid stimulating hormone, follicle stimulating hormone, luteinizing hormone, transforming growth factor alpha, epidermal growth factor, insulin-like growth factor I and II, growth hormone release inhibiting factor, IGA and sex hormone binding globulin and other analytes including glucose, cholesterol, caffeine, cholesterol, corticosteroid binding globulin, PSA, or DHEA binding glycoprotein, and combinations thereof.
58. (New) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein at least one analyte is selected from the group consisting of antibodies to HIV.
59. (New) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein at least one analyte is selected from the group consisting of antibodies to hepatitis.
60. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the lateral flow chromatography strip contains lateral flow chromatography reagents.
61. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the capillary matrix is paddle shaped.
62. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the capillary matrix has an average pore size ranging from about 40 μm to about 250 μm .
63. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a housing having a cavity in which the lateral flow chromatography strip is at least partially disposed.

64. (New) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the housing includes at least one inspection site providing visual inspection of reagents at selected sites on the lateral flow chromatography strip.

65. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a conjugate strip coupled between the capillary matrix and the lateral flow chromatography strip and containing lateral flow chromatography reagents;

a housing having a cavity, wherein the lateral flow chromatography strip extends into the cavity within the housing; and

at least one inspection site on the lateral flow chromatography strip viewable through the housing.

66. (New) The apparatus of claim 65, wherein the housing is connected to the capillary matrix.

67. (New) An apparatus for collection and lateral flow chromatography of an oral fluid, the apparatus comprising:

a collection pad of a capillary matrix having exposed a surface for receiving oral fluid;

a lateral flow chromatography strip where the lateral flow chromatography strip is in communication with capillary matrix such that when the capillary matrix receives oral fluid;

a blocking pad coupled between the capillary matrix and the lateral flow chromatographic strip, wherein the blocking strip contains at least one blocking agent;

a conjugate pad coupled between the capillary matrix and the lateral flow chromatography strip and containing lateral flow chromatography

reagents;

a housing having a cavity, wherein the lateral flow chromatography strip extends into the cavity within the housing; and

at least one inspection site on the lateral flow chromatography strip viewable through the housing.

68. (New) A kit for the detection of an analyte in an oral fluid comprising:

an apparatus of claim 1; and

a buffer, reagent, or detection reagent for collection and lateral flow chromatography of an oral fluid.

69. (New) A kit for the detection of an analyte in an oral fluid comprising:

an apparatus of claim 67; and

a buffer, reagent, or detection reagent for collection and lateral flow chromatography of an oral fluid.